

LINCOLN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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2002

3516 N. BROADWAY
LOS ANGELES, CA 90031

LINCOLNHEIGHTSNC.ORG

August 19, 2021

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT COUNCIL FILE CF 21-0709

The Board Approves This Community Impact Statement Yea (x), Nay (x), Abstain (x) on August 19, 2021

Honorable City Council
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CIS OPPOSING OPPOSING CF 21-0709. WILLIAM MEAD HOMES CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS /CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT / IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND EARLY ACTION ACTIVITY / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) / HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Dear Honorable members of Los Angeles City Council and HACLA,

On August 19, 2021 in a Brown Act compliant meeting, the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council considered the following resolution regarding Motion CF 21-0709 presented to the City by councilman Gil Cedillo. The stakeholders and elected officials have come to the following conclusions listed below:

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2021 LA City Council voted to approve a motion to allocate \$200,000 in PY 48 (2022-2023) CDBG funds toward the William Mead Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Plan/ Early Action Activity, subject to a grant award from the HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant. HACLA will be applying for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to advance the development of a comprehensive community-led Transformation Plan for William Mead Homes and the surrounding neighborhood. The Transformation Plan will provide a community vision for redevelopment of the existing public housing development and catalyze critical improvements in the neighborhood.

WHEREAS, The residents of William Mead Homes aka Dogtown were not properly notified of any development plans and received an invitation to a HACLA town hall only one day before the meeting. William Mead homes fall outside of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council boundaries, yet were originally supposed to be included in our council according to the 2002 council formation hearings. Currently, the residents of William Mead have no representation and are excluded from the HCNC because they are not allocated an area rep position. The residents are not represented and are extremely vulnerable to displacement and health threats.

WHEREAS, Most residents of William Mead Homes do not want to be displaced and simply wish for their dwellings to be maintained and repaired by HACLA; not demolished for mixed income housing and future residents. They are aware of the displacement at Aliso Village that happened in the past.

BOARD MEMBERS: BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: William Rodriguez Morrison, Nancy Stella Soto, vacant

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES: Benny Madera, Dydia DeLyser, vacant

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: Diana Tran

AREA REPRESENTATIVES: Richard W. Larsen, Annalee Harr, Melanie Bellomo Shifflett, Vicente Gonzalez-Reyes Jr., Armida Marrufo, Victor Azanedo, Diego Zapata, vacant, Gil Arevalo, Richard Ortiz, Steve Lucero, Lena Ruiz, Selena Ortega

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WHEREAS, The residents and Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council do not approve the City of LA funding a supplementary amount to the HUD grant in order to further the City's vision for the Cornfield Arroyo Seco Specific Plan area. The residents and elected Neighborhood Council officials were not properly notified of the project and were denied the ability to take action opposing the project.

WHEREAS, The Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council received numerous emails from concerned William Mead residents who fear the demolition of their historic garden style neighborhood that is a renowned example of a successful currently functioning WW2 HACLA project (currently eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places). Currently residents want plumbing and windows replaced and fear displacement from mixed income development. Residents fear that the notorious Lead/ fuel/ Arsenic contaminated soil on the current and surrounding sites will be disturbed, causing more cancer in their community and poisoning the children at Ann St. Elementary School.

WHEREAS, The residents of William Mead do not want their historic neighborhood demolished for the Cornfield Arroyo Specific Plan. The residents seek to protect their historic architecturally significant neighborhood which is the only neighborhood that has existed there for over 80 years. William Mead residents do not want to be displaced by the CASP for future and current luxury/ market rate developments in the oldest most historic part of LA.

NOW, THEREFORE, The residents of William Mead and Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council demand that the City of Los Angeles and HACLA use the funds already at hand to repair the homes and not demolish for mixed income to serve the CASP. William Mead Residents want amenities like grocery stores and mom and pop shops which were eradicated with the development in the past decade in the Dogtown / Chinatown area.

NOW, THEREFORE, Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council demands that the City of Los Angeles and HACLA improve the residents quality of life and do the base minimum for providing amenities and improvements, not the wholesale demolition of their neighborhood in order to usher in upscale development in the CASP. Funds should be used to replace rotten windows and infrastructure. The architectural survey of William Mead Homes states that the buildings are in structurally sound condition for their age, and demolition based on any claims of substandard structural issues is false. Most residents wish to preserve their community and homes.

Sincerely,

Sara Clending, President
Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

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MOTION

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently issued the FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, which focuses on assisting public housing agencies and cities in developing locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with public housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. An estimated total of \$5 million in competitive grants will be made available to eligible applicants, including public housing authorities, units of local government, tribal organizations, and nonprofit entities. The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) will be applying for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to advance the development of a comprehensive community-led Transformation Plan for William Mead Homes and the surrounding neighborhood. The Transformation Plan will provide a community vision for redevelopment of the existing public housing development and catalyze critical improvements in the neighborhood. It will also focus on strategies to improve the outcomes of households that live at William Mead Homes related to income and employment, health, and education.

The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant funds will provide resources for HACLA and the Planning Coordinator Team procured by HACLA to engage in place-based, resident-informed planning work to co-create the Transformation Plan that will serve as the guiding document for the revitalization of William Mead while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and creating positive outcomes for families. HACLA is eligible to receive up to \$450,000, of which \$100,000 would be set aside to support implementation of a to be determined Early Action Activity that enhances the neighborhood and addresses a community-identified need in real time. The goal is to increase neighborhood confidence and help convince skeptical stakeholders that positive change is possible.

The most competitive Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants demonstrate strong local involvement by public and private stakeholders, including the commitment of cash resources to support the two-year long planning process and/or Early Action Activity. The City can strengthen the planning grant application for William Mead by committing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the planning effort during the term of the grant. The City should commit these funds and resources to HACLA for the benefit of the William Mead community and to further the City’s vision for the Cornfield Arroyo Seco Specific Plan area. The completion of a holistic, visionary, and community-supported Transformation Plan would position the City and HACLA to compete for a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant of up to \$35 million to carry out the activities in the plan.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, allocate \$200,000 in PY 48 (2022-2023) CDBG funds toward the William Mead Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Plan/Early Action Activity, subject to a grant award from the HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant.

I FURTHER MOVE that HACLA be requested to report to the Council upon notification of the results of the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, and, should the William Mead effort be awarded a Planning Grant, direct the Housing and Community Investment Department and HACLA to report on the recommended use of the CDBG funding.

PRESENTED BY: 
GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District


SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL